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Change at CIA

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE know almost nothing about their Central Intelligence Agency except that Congress launched it in 1947 to be a super-secret "cloak and dagger" spy for Uncle Sam around the world.

But Congress has often worried about CIA effectiveness. It showed impatience when the CIA failed to warn of the invasion of Korea, the revolt in Iraq, and the true meaning of the rise of Castro in Cuba.

President Johnson now has apparently decided that the world situation demands a real brass-buttons approach in CIA. He has named Retired

Vice Admiral William Francis Raborn Jr. as director to succeed John F. McCone. Thus a rather quiet, conservative business executive is being replaced by the man who developed the Navy's Polaris missile system, a man who may be expected to reflect the Pentagon approach to foreign policy matters.

WHAT THIS will mean, however, we may never know, so secret are CIA operations. Nobody outside a tiny circle knows whether the CIA has 3,000 or 30,000 employees, whether its budget is one million or a hundred. Much secrecy is essential.